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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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MAY 25 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Craig Thomas
House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thomas:

This is in reply to your letter of May 3, 1993, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz. You expressed concern about the impact of the proposed subsection 88.429 regarding power levels for local government and other two-way radio systems located in rural areas.

The primary purpose of the Notice was to foster emerging mobile telecommunications technologies that can help resolve spectrum congestion. While congestion is most pronounced in urban environments, the evidence suggests that pockets exist in even the most rural states. We are, however, fully aware of the varying needs of users of private land mobile radio spectrum, including those of local governments and in rural areas. To this end, Commission staff has had numerous meetings with representatives of various trade groups representing public safety agencies. These discussions have been fruitful and should lead to final rules that achieve the important goals of the Notice while minimizing costs to all users.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. As you have requested, your concerns will be included in the record of this proceeding and will be considered in developing final rules.

Sincerely,

James H. Quello
Chairman

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5001

May 3, 1993

James Quello
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear James:

We are writing to express our concerns about PR Docket 92-235, specifically subsection 88.429 (regarding power levels). This proposed rule ignores the unique characteristics of rural areas and could cost local governments hundreds of thousands of dollars each to fix a problem they don't have.

While we understand the need to readdress two-way radio frequency regulations in large metropolitan areas, emergency services and a vast number of private businesses in rural areas must have the powerful repeaters and tall antennas allowed under current law. The proposed FCC rules will render obsolete emergency radio equipment currently utilized by police, fire and ambulance personnel in rural areas and will, in many instances, force the costly construction of several additional transmitters to cover the area currently reached with a single transmitter tower.

We know you've heard from local officials and businessmen from throughout the country about the negative effect this proposal will have on local communities. We want to add our voices to those who have proposed that rural areas be exempted from this costly and unnecessary federal mandate and we look forward to working with you to find a solution for our nation's rural areas.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration. We look forward to your response.

Best regards,


Craig Thomas, M.C.


Jill L. Long, M.C.


James A. Leach, M.C.


G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, M.C.


Tim Johnson, M.C.


Dan Glickman, M.C.



Nick J. Rahall II, M.C.


Pat Williams, M.C.


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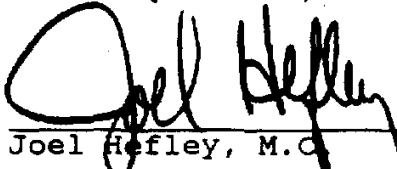

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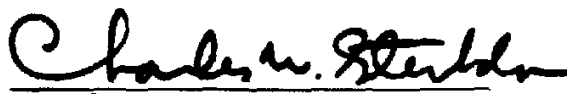

Peter A. DeFazio, M.C.


Robert F. Smith, M.C.

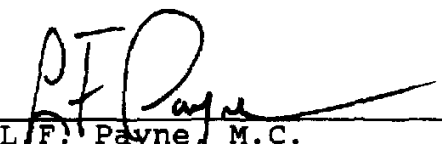

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